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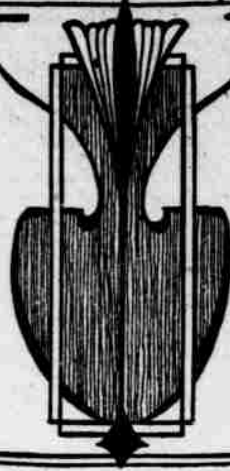
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WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN VICTORIA.

In an extremely interesting interview with the Prime Minister of Victoria, accorded to a representative of The Christian Science Monitor, Mr. Watt explains his reasons for having been one of the pioneers of the woman suffrage movement in Australia, and the experiences of it in practice which have convinced him of the soundness of his judgment. Mr. Watt spoke naturally with reserve of the application of the idea to any other country. No responsible statesman deliberately intrudes his opinions upon the domain of the domestic politics of another state. Mr. Watt does not presume to speak of the desirability of the acceptance of the idea even by other divisions of the empire. But of the success of the experiment in Victoria he speaks with decision and confidence. Mr. Watt starts with the admission that Australia, unlike the United Kingdom, has only a modified foreign policy. At the same time, Australia, he admits, must be at war if the mother country is at war, so that the difference is not so very enormous. There are, however, he points out, vast questions on which the judgment of women is incomparably more valuable than that of irresponsible youths. Such a question as that of domestic economy, which affects the fortunes of every household as fully as political economy does that of nations. Then again, Mr. Watt points out the entire absence of hysteria in politics, which was so frequently threatened by the anti-suffragists when the bill was before the House. If, indeed, he had been in London on the night of the news of the relief of Mafeking was received, he might have observed that hysteria is not entirely confined to women. So far from this being the case, he points out, that in Australia women have used the vote with "sagacity."

Still, like all true suffragists, Mr. Watt rests his case on principle. If it is right, he says, in effect, for women to enjoy the franchise, that is a good enough reason for extending it to them. He does not in the least fear that evil consequences will ensue from doing right. He has a healthy sense of the power of good, which leaves a fear of rightdoing to the prophets of evil. George Eliot's historic gardener would obviously have stood little chance of retaining the spoils of his masculine ignorance, at any time, in a state ruled by the Prime Minister of Victoria. The enormities of the militant suffragettes would fail, one imagines, to appeal to him as a reason for not acting on principle himself. The best answer, he remarked to his interviewer, to those who oppose woman suffrage, is to request them to formulate definitely their objections on the ground of principle.

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News Notes of the District Schools

This has been one of the hard working weeks of the school year, with genuine "wood sawing" in the apportioning of administrative details, dined teaching and classified tests given by teachers in the schoolroom, and concentrated effort in the schoolroom, with freedom and sport on the playgrounds for the pupils.

The advent of warm weather makes teaching from the book of nature both attractive and possible, and entire classes are frequently taken to the country for lessons in geography, and even history and literature, as well as science and nature study.

Central High School will give its annual luncheon May 2, with the customary "rummage lunch" on the following day. Elaborate preparations are under way, and the school is a beehive of workers. Many kinds of souvenirs and fancy work of all descriptions will be for sale. Brass desk ornaments and arts and crafts jewelry are being turned out by the art department. Pictures of "Big Ed" (Emory Wilson, principal of Central) and "Little Ed" (his baby son, who was for sale, as well as postals of "faculty babies" and yellow jackets. Central always reaches the top-notch of success in the matter of luncheons, and incidentally greatly adds to the athletic fund. Members of the Board of Education and school officials will be entertained at the luncheon.

Secretary Harry O. Hine, of the Board of Education, sends a suitable representative each day to the office of the purchasing officer of the District, where bids were opened April 16 for municipal supplies. There are 5,000 items on which bids have been requested, the schools requiring more than half of the regular work of the entire District of Columbia. Selection of awards from the large number of competitors in the field will begin May 5.

Returns from Business High School luncheon are about completed, and the

sum of \$500 added to the school fund. Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, of the Board of Education, was one of the distinguished guests on what high school folk call "Rummage Day," the day after the luncheon proper, when everything is finally disposed of through the alluring offers of a witty school auctioneer, and the boys and girls are given the privilege of an impromptu dance in the gymnasium.

Mrs. M. R. Hampeen, who was a teacher of Latin for twenty years at Central High School, visited the scene of her labors on the day of the luncheon at the neighboring high school. She was most cordially received by all "Centralites," who entertained her at the home school with a characteristic high school "feed," the essentials obtained from the generously supplied tables at Business High School.

The many friends of Miss Florence Jones Evans, of Alexandria, Va., are congratulating her upon the introduction of her work, "Little Songs for Little Folks," into the kindergartens. The songs are fascinating and practical, and the boys and girls are sure to be a success. Miss Evans is principal of the kindergarten at the Potomac School.

The Child Welfare Association held its April meeting at Congress Heights School Friday afternoon. An address was made by Assistant Scout Commissioner Wood, and candidates were examined for "ten-foot" degree. This is a newly organized band of Boy Scouts, and is known as "Troop Twenty-four." It has the honor of organizing the first Boy Scout band in the District of Columbia, which has been made possible through the generous assistance of Col. Randle. The leader of the band is L. Kidwell, and the scout master of the troop M. C. Earl.

The Montessori section of the kindergarten school at Arthur Building, in charge of Mrs. Hawthurst, has been visited

by many of the "federation women" who have been in the city during the last week. Numbers of regular kindergarten teachers also have recently taken advantage of the two school days allowed by the rules for visiting other schools, and have spent a part of their time in this experimental work after the Italian method.

J. B. Beadle, of the Reclamation Service, gave an interesting illustrated lecture on "Irrigation" before the Blow Parent-Teachers' Association on Friday evening. The stereopticon was loaned by McKinley High School, and an electric line extended to the building to operate it. About 150 guests were present, and a pleasant evening was closed with refreshments and dancing.

Asst. Supt. E. L. Thurston has not yet been able to announce the date for the great May "Folk Festival" of graded schools to be held at American League Park the last week in May. The general plan of the festival is educational, demonstrating the various phases of physical culture work in the schools. While the object of the festival is not to raise funds, an admission will be charged, and all proceeds in excess of expenses turned over to school playgrounds.

"An Evening with James Whitcomb Riley," with Justice Job Barnard, of the District Supreme Court, as reader, was the delightful programme offered by the programme committee to the West Home and School Association Friday evening. It was given in the attractive reception room of the new Dixon Home for Aged Men, on suburban Fourteenth Street.

C. C. Lister, of the A. M. Palmer Company, gave a demonstration of the firm's penmanship system at the James Ormond Wilson Normal School Thursday morning. It was given in the form of a lesson to undergraduates in the presence of the superintendent and leading school officials. Miss Anne Goding, principal of the school, entertained the guests at

luncheon in the spacious lunchroom of the new building.

Next Friday and Saturday evenings Western High School will present 357 boys and girls in their annual spring entertainment, called "The Old World in the New." Tremendous preparations have been made for its presentation, and it will more nearly approach a pageant than anything ever attempted by high schools in Washington. The libretto was written by Miss Alice Wood along lines recommended by the Drama League, and is educational in nature. Miss Guillaume is designing the scenery and stage settings, and many of the effective costumes are being rented from a professional costumer. A seventeenth century hymn, a Gregorian chant, a native Maypole song, and the well-known play song, "Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest," sung by fifteen lusty pirates of Capt. Kidd's crew, will be among the musical features, which are in charge of Mrs. Frank Byram.

On the same evening Eastern High School's Dramatic Society will be heard in the German play, "King Drosselbart," a fairy story, based on Grimm's "King Thrusbeard." The lines will be wholly in German, with the following cast: Ralph Ogte in the title role; the Prince, Miss Flora M. Hendly spoke on the recent effort to educationalize moving picture shows, and advocated sight-seeing trips for school children in their home city. E. H. Daniel, vice president of the Board of Education, told of his boyhood days at the Jefferson School.

Hockey season is on at Western, and the two teams are engaged in daily practice for the field day events which will be held early in June.

The official staff of Balance Sheet entertained their friends at a dance Friday evening at the gymnasium of Business High School.

"Fresh air school" at the Blake will be given its second physical test next week by Dr. Murray. The pupils will be weighed, measured, and otherwise tested physically and compared with the "school of control," where children aver-

are the same in age without the special "fresh air school" conditions.

Capt. James Dullin, of prize Company E, W. entertained "the boys," now business men, at a reunion Thursday night at his home, 238 Wisconsin Avenue. They revived old times, sang school songs, and did full justice to a delicious buffet supper.

Agara Debating Society, of Tech, created much merriment Wednesday evening with a mock trial given in a "moot" court. Diamond rings, pawn tickets, pretty girls, and chivalrous youths figured largely in the trial, but it was all finally settled amicably without the intervention of any "bluecoats" outside of the school building.

The Playground Association will be asked to donate funds for constructing a cinder track and tennis courts on the rear grounds of McKinley Manual Training School. The repair shop has fenced in the lot and graded it for outdoor sports.

A number of old "grads," as well as the class of '13, attended the Tech class night dance at the Grafton Friday evening.

"Proper Food for Children" is to be the subject of an address by Dr. Louise Taylor-Jones before the Parent-Teachers' Association of Banneker School Thursday, May 8, at 8 o'clock.

The senior class of Armstrong School will hold a dance and reception at Auditorium Hall on the evening of May 9 to defray expenses of graduation.

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A joint mothers' meeting of the Garrison, Patterson, and Garnet Schools was held at the Garnet School April 23 at 8 o'clock. Leading speakers were Mrs. J. T. Layton, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. I. G. Richardson, Mrs. Julia Shaw, Mrs. C. F. Cook, and Miss M. P. Shadd. Many valuable truths were brought home to the

mothers, and they showed their interest in the meeting by appointing a committee to bring in a "mothers' code," which will be printed and hung in their homes.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar Society has been organized at Armstrong for study of the life and work of the poet.

E. H. Daniel, vice president of the Board of Education; Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect; and M. F. Singleton, of Omaha, Neb., were visitors at Armstrong Friday morning.

The "Perfect Gentleman," Too. From the New York Tribune.

The suffragettes boast that one of their number "drove the last nail into the coffin of the 'perfect lady' " the other day.

We ourselves are too progressive to weep over the disappearance of a type, whether she was, as the driver of the coffin said, "a survival from the age of crinolines," or not, but why should the "perfect lady" thus perish and leave the perfect gentleman to a lonely widowhood? And was there ever a "perfect gentleman" except in the vocabulary of those who must say "most unique" in order to be sure they have been sufficiently emphatic?

Was it chivalry slew the term "lady"—chivalry which denied that any word which might be applied to any member of the sex was too good to apply to all the sex? Or was it the changing ideals of the sex itself? At any rate, the word "lady" was doomed when it had to reinforce itself with the word "perfect." A vocable that cannot stand alone soon falls. When we see the word "gentleman" compelled to lean for support upon an adjective we shall fear for another type, also, which now is a sturdy survival, but melancholy, bereft of its mate. Who knows when it, too, will be swept aside as the last obstacle to progress?

Success.

From "Inde."

He was obscure and friendless when He bravely started out; But, daily urged ahead by Hope, He struggled up the slippery slope, And died, at last, of gout.